

MEDIA RELEASE

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Event: DanceHouse presents Compagnie Hervé KOUBI

Dates: April 7 & 8, 2017 **Curtain:** 8 pm

Venue: Vancouver Playhouse, 600 Hamilton Street, Vancouver

Speaking of Dance Pre-show talk: 7:15 pm, upper lobby with Hervé Koubi (Artistic Director, Compagnie Hervé KOUBI)

& Kaija Pepper (Editor, Dance International Magazine)

Tickets and Information: From \$35. 604.801.6225 or www.dancehouse.ca

What the day owes to the night (Ce que le jour doit à la nuit)

VANCOUVER, BC / Friday, March 3, 2017 — In the final show of its 2016/17 season, DanceHouse presents the stunning, timely What the day owes to the night, by France's **Compagnie Hervé KOUBI**.

In the performance, twelve Algerian and Burkina Faso dancers bring a freewheeling energy to a piece that combines elements of capoeira, martial arts, urban and contemporary dance. The dancers, who mostly come from street and hip-hop dance backgrounds, erupt across the stage with mesmerizing power, broad, physical gestures, and gravity-defying leaps and spins; they seem to be improvising even as they move in complex counterpoint.

The dance has been described as "a kind of desert prayer in which Koubi reconnects with his Algerian roots." Born in France, choreographer Hervé Koubi embarked on his own journey in creating the work. As he puts it: "It is like an orientalist of the XIXth century come to Algeria to give life to his dreams of the Orient; I would like to give life to my dreams as a child born in France, and who discovered belatedly his true origins and those of his parents, Algerians from birth."

One of Europe's most distinctive choreographers, Koubi discovered the dancers in auditions in Algeria in 2009. Koubi was inspired to create What the day owes to the night by the eponymous novel (translated from Ce que le jour doit a la nuit) by Yasmina Khadra (pen name for an Algerian army officer). In the novel, a young boy is sent from one family to another.

The score includes Bach and Vivaldi, traditional Sufi music, and a piece by Nubian composer Hamza El Din played by the Kronos Quartet. What the day owes to the night won First Prize at the International Dance Festival in Algiers. It's also recipient of an Honor Award at Sareyyet Dance Festival Ramallah.

About Hervé Koubi:

Hervé Koubi initially trained to be a doctor of pharmacy. Born in Cannes to Algerian parents, he studied biology and dance at the University of Aix-en-Provence. Koubi has studied and danced at the Centre International de Danse de Rosella Hightower in Cannes and at the Opera of Marseille. After working with some of Europe's best-known companies, he choreographed his first piece *Le Golem* in 2000. He has also collaborated with musical artist Laetitia Sherrif and writer Chantal Thomas, as well as with filmmakers for video-dance projects. In addition to his work on projects for the Hervé Koubi Company he is also regularly invited to teach and choreograph for professional dance schools in France as well as abroad. In 2012 he was invited by Paola Cantalupo the director of the advanced school of dance in Cannes - to choreograph for a group of young male dancers for their professional dance diplomas.

SPEAKING OF DANCE CONVERSATIONS

Date & Time: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 7pm

Location: Djavad Mowafaghian World Art Centre, Goldcorp Centre for the Arts, SFU Woodward's, 149 W. Hastings St

Topic: Absent and Present: Muslim culture in today's society Moderator: Kaija Pepper, Editor, Dance International Magazine

Guest speakers: Adel Iskandar (Assistant Professor of Global Communication at SFU) and Arash Khakpour (Dance Artist)

DanceHouse is pleased to once again partner with SFU Woodward's to present **Speaking of Dance**, a series of **FREE** public dialogues and roundtable conversations about the world of dance, contextualizing it within culture and society.







